GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3024
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Encroachments of Water Bodies
Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is lack of a well coordinated approach while formulating policies to prevent encroachment and rejuvenate water bodies and if so, the facts thereof;
(b) whether the Government proposes to bring one scheme with inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination instead of multiple schemes and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government has also taken cognizance of the fact that there is prevalence of grim situation with regard to maintenance and upkeep of water bodies as many water bodies have been encroached for construction activities, agricultural purposes, slum habitations and commercial activities and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government intends to urge the States to include water bodies in land records so that they are immediately able to take action against the encroachers and thereby get such water bodies free from the encroachment and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d) Works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies etc.

It is to mention that water bodies included under RRR of water bodies schemes are encroachment free. However, considering the importance of water bodies for socio economic development and sustainable water security to the local population, Secretary (MoWR, RD & GR) vide letter dated 26.02.2016 requested State Governments to take necessary steps for keeping all the water bodies encroachment free throughout the country. Further, Secretary (WR, RD & GR) vide letter dated 07.11.2016 requested the State Governments to take appropriate action in respect of inclusion of water bodies in land records, inclusion of water bodies as integral part of town planning process, strict action for the encroachers, etc.

Further, draft guidelines for Conservation and Protection of Water Bodies have been prepared and circulated to the concerned Central Ministries and States/UTs.
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